



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Exhibition title: IDEAS and IDEOLOGIES
Exhibiting artist: Marcin Berdyszak
Curator: Roman Popelár
Venue: Zahorie Gallery of Jan Mudroch in Senica, Sadová 619/3, 905 01 Senica
Opening: 2 December 2022 (Friday) at 17.00
Exhibition running: 3 December (Friday) 2022– 12 February (Sunday) 2023

The work of the prominent Polish sculptor Marcin Berdyszak draws on socially critical subject matter. His commitment, with which he endows his figural compositions, installations, paintings and deliberate site-specific projects, has the ambition to point to the development of Central European, but primarily of Polish society. It visually interprets politics, national themes, religion or liberal attitudes through signs and symbols, the meaning of which is understandable and unmistakable for most visitors. In the interpretation of reality, he offers a wider context of perception of the world – it is primarily criticism, but also fear and hope. He observes what appears to be democracy, but it is actually pseudo-democracy and populism. In the context of the social development of the last three decades, which he actively experiences as an artist and a parent, he includes the totalitarian system in the mass pop-culture of which we are a part. We experience it every day, many – especially the youngest – define themselves in different ways. Older people have partially resigned, but we cannot deny that we all use and need it daily and continue to shape it. So we are improving its mechanisms.

Just as the history of art can constantly convey the model, archetypal behaviour of a person who often likes to adhere to risky behaviour and destructive situations, the world, in turn, can provide the individual and society with its permanent development (and nature cycles) a chance for new beginnings. Man as a thinking and acting being is always at the centre of Marcin Berdyszak's interest. With flaws, masks, pretence and vulnerability. In his work, we identify references to Dada, Surrealism and Pop Art. The visitors to the exhibition thus often find themselves in the shadow of time: historical, metaphorical and real.

Polish art historian Elżbieta Kościelak once wrote about the artist: "Marcin Berdyszak's art is a premonition of evolution in artistic practices that connect the current state of art in the Western World with art understood as part of human nature. His installations and objects are current texts of culture. The structure of the text is open to interaction. Berdyszak is the heir of the Avant-Garde. In his artistic discourse, he does not comment on the achievements of the 20th century Avant-Garde, but reveals their powerlessness against today's world."

Roman Popelár

Marcin Berdyszak (born 1964, Poznań, PL)

1983 – 1988 Academy of Fine Arts, Poznań, PL

1988 completed Master's degree studies with Prof. Maciej Szańkowski and Prof. Włodzimierz Dudkowiak (sculpture and painting)

He has been working at the University of Fine Arts in Poznań since 1989, and was its rector for two terms in 2008 – 2016. The artist has exhibited since 1988 and has had dozens of solo exhibitions in important galleries in Poland, Germany, Finland and Slovakia, and participated in many sculpture symposia at home and abroad.

The Partner of this project is Polish Institute in Bratislava.